

What Do Different Egg Shapes Mean?

Timber Creek Farm



What Causes Odd Eggs?



In almost every odd egg case, stress from predators, temperature, diet lacking in nutrients and the presence of disease can be the cause. Each case should be looked at carefully in order to decide if the situation is serious or temporary.

All chicken keepers find egg shapes that appear funny. Maybe a better term would be odd. Egg shapes can be clues to something deeper going on in the hen's body. These deeper issues can be passing, and not really a problem. Or, in some cases, the odd egg shapes can be warning signs that we should examine.

What should you do when you find Odd Egg Shapes in the nest box?

In almost every case of funny egg shapes age, illness, stress, and diet can be the culprit. Managing the hen's health after you find any odd egg shapes may restore her health.

Young laying hens often will lay an oddly shaped egg. The problem is usually short lived. The causes could also be a defective shell gland, stress, or crowded living conditions.

Wrinkled eggs can almost look like corrugated. One possibility for this could be copper deficiency. The other

reasons could be excess calcium, Sometimes heredity can be the problem, along with recent illness, or the presence of a double yolk! In any event when we see these bumpy abnormalities.

What if there is a **very soft shell** orno shell at all? Have you ever reached into the nest and been surprised to find squishy, rubbery egg shapes. This surprise can be the result of an immature shell gland in the hen. Also, lacking enough calcium, and vitamin D, can cause the egg to lay prematurely, with out a shell.

(Continue reading below the graphic...)

Timber Creek Farm



What Causes Odd Eggs?



In almost every odd egg case, stress from predators, temperature, diet lacking in nutrients and the presence of disease can be the cause. Each case should be looked at carefully in order to decide if the situation is serious or temporary.

Pale/Weak Shells

- viral respiratory disease
- damaged egg shell gland
- coming into lay
- end of lay in older hens

Rubber Eggs

- illness
- nutritional lack of calcium or vitamin deficiency
- immature shell gland
- high temps
- molting

Odd Colors

Minor in most cases

- stress
- heat
- illness
- new layer

Fairy Eggs are tiny eggs, often without a yolk, common in new layers

Wrinkled shell

- double yolk
- copper deficiency
- excess calcium
- recovery from illness

Odd shape

- Young layer
- defective shell gland
- stress
- overcrowding

Calcium Deposits

- excess calcium in diet
- defective shell gland
- stress
- sometimes seen as a dust coating

Similar to eggs without shells are those that are called **rubber eggs**. This can also be caused by lack of calcium, a problem in the shell gland. And the usual suspected reasons illnesses, high temperatures, mites, worms, lice and even

natural molting can be the reason for a rubber egg.



This egg had a very thin, weak shell. It was broken by another hen sitting on the eggs in the nest box.

As a young pullet comes into lay, her shell gland may not be operating at peak performance. If the eggs are **pale with weak shells**, keep a close eye on the hen. She could be recovering from a viral infection. As a hen ages and starts going out of lay, her shell gland can start to shut down. This can be temporary or permanent.

Lastly, sometimes we find eggs with **rough bumpy spots or patches**. These bumps are calcium deposits. Not to worry! Most times this is short lived and the hen is back to laying regular smooth eggs in no time at all.



Most of the possibilities listed above are stress related.

Keep your hens comfortable, and maintain a stress free environment. Add additional calcium in the form of oyster shell, ground up egg shells, or limestone. Feeding an appropriate layer feed to mature hens, ensures that they are getting the nutrition they need to form strong egg shells. If a hen continually lays an odd egg, it could be heredity at work. If no signs of illness are present and the hen just lays an occasional strange egg, I wouldn't be overly concerned.

(Do you want a printable version of this graphic? Many of my graphics are available on the subscribers only page. You can subscribe to the weekly newsletter by signing up with your email here. This is only for the weekly update newsletter and you will not be spammed by signing up.) [SIGN UP HERE](#)

Current Newsletter subscribers – the link is in the weekly newsletter!

What Causes Odd Eggs?



In almost every odd egg case, stress from predators, temperature, diet lacking in nutrients and the presence of disease can be the cause. Each case should be looked at carefully in order to decide if the situation is serious or temporary.

Pale/Weak Shells	Rubber Eggs	Odd Colors
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -viral -respiratory disease -damaged egg -shell gland -rotting into lay -start of lay in older hens 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - illness -nutritional -lack of calcium or vitamin deficiency -immature shell gland -high temps -coulitis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Minor in most cases -stress -heat -illness -new layer

Fairy Eggs are tiny eggs, often without a yolk, common in new layers

Wrinkled shell	Odd shape	Calcium Deposits
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -double yolk -copper deficiency -excess calcium -necrosis from illness 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Young layer -defective shell gland -stress -overcrowding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -excess calcium in diet -defective shell gland -stress -overcrowding -seen as a dark coating